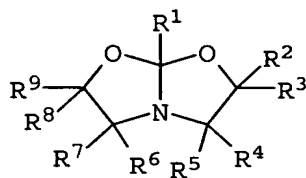


IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A process for post-crosslinking a water-absorbing polymer, which process comprises treating said polymer ~~being treated~~ with a postcrosslinker and, during or after said treating, ~~being postcrosslinked and dried~~ postcrosslinking and drying by temperature elevation, said postcrosslinker being a compound of ~~the~~ a formula \pm (I)



(I)

where wherein R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸,
and R⁹ are each independently hydrogen, C₁-C₁₂-alkyl,
C₂-C₁₂-alkenyl, or C₆-C₁₂-aryl, wherein C₁-C₁₂-alkyl,
C₂-C₁₂-alkenyl, or C₆-C₁₂-aryl may be halogen substi-
tuted.

2. (Currently amended) A The process as per of claim 1, wherein said postcrosslinker is of the formula ~~I~~ where (I) wherein R^1 is C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, or C₆-C₇-aryl, R^2 , R^4 , R^6 , and R^8 are each independently hydrogen, and R^3 , R^5 , R^7 , and R^9 are each independently hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, or C₂-C₄-alkenyl, wherein C₁-C₄-alkyl or C₂-C₄-alkenyl may be fluorine substituted.

3. (Currently amended) A The process ~~as~~
~~per~~ of claim 1, wherein said postcrosslinker is 1-aza-
4,6-dioxabicyclo[3.3.0]octane.

4. (Currently amended) A The process
~~according to any of claims claim 1 to 3,~~ wherein said
polymer to be postcrosslinked ~~is a polymer which~~ con-
tains structural units ~~which are~~ derived from acrylic
acid or acrylic esters or ~~which were~~ is obtained by
graft copolymerization of acrylic acid or acrylic
esters onto a water-soluble polymeric matrix.

5. (Currently amended) A The process
~~according to any of claims claim 1 to 4,~~ wherein said
postcrosslinker is a surface postcrosslinker which is
used as a solution in an inert solvent.

6. (Currently amended) A The process
~~according to~~ of claim 5, wherein said inert solvent
comprises an aqueous ~~solutions~~ solution of glycerol,
methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, ethylene glycol, 1,2-
propanediol, ~~and/or~~ 1,3-propanediol, or mixtures there-
of.

7. (Currently amended) A The process
~~according to one or more of claims claim 1 to 6,~~ 5
wherein said inert solvent is water or a mixture of
water with a mono- or a polyfunctional ~~alcohols~~ alcohol
which has an alcohol content in the range from 10% to
90% by weight.

8. (Currently amended) A The process ~~according to one or more of claims claim 1 to 7,~~ wherein said postcrosslinker is used in an amount from 0.01% to 5% by weight, based on the weight of said polymer.

9. (Currently amended) ~~Water-absorbing A~~ water-absorbing polymer obtainable as per prepared by the process of ~~claims claim 1 to 8.~~

10. (Currently amended) ~~Water-absorbing A~~ water-absorbing polymer according to of claim 8, characterized by an absorbency under load (AUL) at 0.7 psi (4830 Pa) of at least 15 g/g.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (New) A hygiene article comprising a water-absorbing polymer prepared by the process of claim 1.

13. (New) A packaging material comprising a water-absorbing polymer prepared by the process of claim 1.